Docket No.: 67161-102 <u>PATENT</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277

Yoshimasa ICHIKAWA : Confirmation Number:

Serial No.: : Group Art Unit:

Filed: September 22, 2003 : Examiner: Unknown

For: PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT METHOD IN A PLURALITY OF PRODUCTION

LINES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop IDS Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The relevance of the references listed on attached Form 1449 is discussed in the present specification.

Serial No.:

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

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Facsimile: (202) 756-8087 **Date: September 22, 2003**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 67161-102	SER	ERIAL NO.		
				APPLICANT Yoshimasa ICHIKA	APPLICANT Yoshimasa ICHIKAWA			
(PTO-1449)				FILING DATE September 22, 200	GROUP			
			U.S. PATE	NT DOCUMENTS				
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code2 (# known)	Publication Dat MM-DD-YYYY	e Name of Patentee or Applic Document	Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document Pages, Columns, Lines, When Relevant Passages or Relevant Pages, Columns, Lines, When Relevant Passages or Relevant Pages, Columns, Lines, When Relevant Pages, Columns, Lines, Columns, Lines, Columns, Lines, Columns, Lines, Columns, Lines, Columns, Columns, Lines, Columns, Col		Where elevant	
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EXAMINER'S	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	Pages,	Translation		
INITIALS	CITE NO.	Country Codes -Number 4 -Kind Codes (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear			
						Yes	No	
		JP P2000-158300A	06/13/2000	NEC CORP		(Japan w/English Abstract)		
		JP 9-128440	05/16/1997	HITACHI LTD		(Japan w/English Abstract)		
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.